

This I Believe Patchwork

Do you have a life motto? Well, just log into any teenager's Facebook 'Information' page and you will most probably find one. I too, am no exception. However, at different stages of my life, I live with vastly different mottos ringing in my head. Whether they are things I believed or still believe in, I know they have all helped to shape who I am now. This, I believe.

When I was a child, I strongly believed that 'Money can buy happiness'. After all, what are all my toys and games bought with? I decided that without money, we would be poor both on the inside and outside. Conversely, with tons of money, we would be able to accomplish anything that we set our minds to. With that mindset, I dreamt of being rich and famous one day. I dreamt of having everything in the world – anything that I liked I would buy. Oh, what a wonderful life that would be! 'Money can buy happiness', I believed. However, when I came across this quote – 'If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can't buy' – it suddenly hit me that money is not the most important thing in the world. Life should never be printed on dollar bills. This, I believe.

While I was in primary school, perfection was all that I thought about. I believed that 'Life is meant to be perfect', and whatever I did, I had to make sure that it was flawless. My life then revolved around making sure that there were no errors in my work. Whenever I saw a cross on my worksheet, I would get extremely upset. I would start reprimanding myself, even questioning myself why I was so 'stupid', why I could not get anything right. Looking back, I see how stressed and unhappy I was then. Tyra Banks once said, "Perfect is boring, human is beautiful". Striving for excellence motivates us, but striving for perfection is demoralizing. It is only when we accept the fact that we are imperfect that we develop some confidence. This, I believe.

Nowadays, the way I lead my life is based on five simple words – 'Smile your way through life'. To me, optimism is the trait that leads me to achievement. Whenever I am faced with difficulties, I remind myself of the five words. I remind myself that a pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity, while an optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty. Even though the outside world might be raining, if I keep on smiling, the sun will soon show its face and smile back at me. What more, it might even greet me with a rainbow! 'Smile your way through life' – this, I believe. I firmly believe.

'Money can buy happiness'; 'Life is meant to be perfect'; 'Smile your way through life'... Different stages in life, different life mottos. Although immensely diverse, I know that they have all, in one way or the other, helped develop who I really am today. This, I really, truly believe.